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Message Text

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54
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 DRC-01

/150 W

---------- 085245

R 101327Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4504
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UR, CB
SUBJ: PRAVDA PLUGS CAMBODIA SOLIDARITY MEETING

1. SOVIET PRESS HAS DEVOTED UNCHARACTERISTICALLY FULSOME ATTENTION TO A SO-CALLED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE DEFENSE OF CAMBODIA IN PARIS. BILLED AS AN OFFSHOOT OF THE RECENT (OCTOBER 1973) MOSCOW CONGRESS OF PEACELOVING FORCES, THE PARIS MEETING WAS SUBJECT OF PRAVDA COMMENTARY DEC. 8. PRAVDA BEAT THE DRUMS FOR GRUNK AND FUNK, AT SAME
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TIME DEPLORING "IMPERIALIST INTERFERENCE" IN CAMBODIA.

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SUBSEQUENT DISPATCHES FROM PARIS HAVE QUOTED DEMANDS BY CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. ADVISERS AND END TO INTERFERENCE BY U.S. AND SAIGON IN CAMBODIA.

2. THIS ATYPICALLY HIGH-PROFILE TREATMENT OF CAMBODIA HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY RATHER PROMINENT REPORTS OF FIGHTING AND A TASS ITEM ON IN TAM RESIGNATION SUGGESTING THAT SITUATION IN PHNOM PENH DETERIORATING. GLARING OMISSION IN PRESS COVERAGE OF CAMBODIA IS UNGA DECISION TO POSTPONE CREDENTIALS CHALLENGE UNTIL NEXT YEAR, WHICH HAS BEEN IGNORED (AND EVEN DISTORTED OUTRIGHT IN PRAVADA DEC. 8 COMMENT WHICH SAYS ISSUE "BEING DISCUSSED AT THIS TIME IN UGA").

3. COMMENT: SOVIET FASCINATION FOR CAMBODIA WELL AFTER THE ISSUE HAS DROPPED FROM SIGHT IN THE UN COULD REFLECT SENSE OF DUTY TO CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED AT PEACE CONGRESS, OR IT COULD BE E**ORT T* ESTABLISH GOO** TR*CK RECORD IN EYE* OF KHMER INSURGENTS ON ASSUMPTION THAT THEIR PROSPECTS HAVE IMPROVE* WITH ADVENT OF DRY S ASON. WILLINGNESS TO CRITICIZE U.S. GIVES SOVIET PROPAGANDA A BOLDER RING THAN WE HAVE COME TO EXPECT ON CAMBODIA.
DUBS

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